

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/995,481

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Applicant(s)

MARTIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3 August 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2 and 4.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 3 August 2006 have been received and entered. Claims 1-2 and 4 as amended are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-2 and 4 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention teaches a portal for simultaneously viewing video channels, launching interactive applications and interfacing with locally or remotely stored content. Each of the independent claims identifies the distinct feature of displaying a plurality of pages, wherein each page of the plurality of pages comprises an arrangement of cells, wherein each page is dynamically reorganized based on a content of the arrangement of cells on each page and wherein a third cell of the arrangement of cells is generated for a specific period of time corresponding to a length of at least one of the plurality of programs being displayed on another cell of the arrangement of cells. The closest prior art, Yuen et al. U.S. Patent 6,239,794 (hereinafter "Yuen") and Gorham et al. U.S. Publication 2002/0005866 (hereinafter "Gorham") teach a portal for a broadcast television system. In the case of the Yuen reference, Yuen teaches a portal comprising a display connected to a remote terminal for displaying an arrangement of cells (the TV display is remotely connected to the broadcast center in order to receive television signals and display broadcast programs; the TV display displays an arrangement of cells as shown in Figures 2-5) (Yuen: column 4, lines 14-55 and Figure 1), each cell comprising a visual object and an underlying

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application that is displayed upon user selection of the cell (in the displays shown in Figures 2-5, an arrangement of cells are shown, each with a visual object, i.e. displayed text or picture, and an associated application, or function, i.e. an associated program being broadcasted or listed, the program being displayed in the PIP window upon user selection) (Yuen: column 2, lines 5-35 and column 5, line 16 – column 6, line 51); and a user input device for inputting user inputs to select one of the cells (the remote controller shown in Figure 6 accepts user inputs for selection of cells such as program listings) (Yuen: column 7, lines 15-33), wherein a first cell of the arrangement of cells displays one of a plurality of programs received from a broadcast center and wherein a second cell is sensitive to the context of a cell displaying a program (as shown in Figures 2-5, cell 42, i.e. the PIP window, displays a current television program while cell 44 displays a program description of the broadcasted program shown in the PIP window 42) (Yuen: column 2, lines 5-35 and column 5, line 16 – column 6, line 51). In the case of the Gorham reference, Gorham teaches that an underlying application is launched from behind the cell upon user selection of the cell, wherein launching the underlying application comprises opening the underlying application for viewing (when the user clicks on an object such as an icon, the underlying application is opened and displayed) (Gorham: page 4, paragraph 0054). However, the prior art fails to teach dynamically reorganizing each page of a plurality of pages based on a content of the arrangement of cells on each page and wherein a third cell of the arrangement of cells is generated for a specific period of time corresponding to a length of at least one of the plurality of programs being displayed on another cell of the arrangement of cells. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

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4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ


Kieu D. Vu
Primary Examiner